

**WRITTEN OPINION  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
SEARCHING AUTHORITY  
(SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET)**

**10/590231**

International reference

PCT/EP2005/050657

**AP9 Rec'd PCT/PTO 22 AUG 2006**

**Re Box III.**

**Re Box IV.**

1. Reference is made to the following document:

D1: US 5 613 064 A (CURTIN ET AL) 18 March 1997 (1997-03-18)

The different inventions/groups of inventions are:

Group I

Claims 1 – 7, 12

An automation system having terminals for field devices, having an excitation component and a measurement component for the field devices and having a connection unit for selective connection of field-device terminals to the terminals of the excitation component or measurement component.

Group II

Claims 8 – 11

A method for correcting connection errors in field devices connected to an automation system, having the steps:

- identifying a connection error, and
- correcting the connection error by means of a connection unit for selective connection of field-device terminals and terminals of an excitation component or measurement component.

These inventions/groups are not related for the following reasons such that they fulfill one exclusive general inventive idea (Rule 13.1 PCT).

The common part of the independent claims 1 and 8 is as follows:

An automation system having terminals for field devices, having a connection unit for selective connection of the field-device terminals to the terminals of the excitation component or measurement component. Such a system is known from the document D1 (Column 5, lines 47 – 53). The application thus does not fulfill the requirements of Rule 13.1 PCT.

**Re Box V.**

1. Reference is made to the following document:  
D1: US 5 613 064 A (CURTIN ET AL) 18 March 1997 (1997-03-18)

2. **INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1**

The present application does not fulfill the requirements of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject matter of claim 1 is not novel in terms of Article 33(2) PCT. Document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses relate to this document);  
An automation system having terminals for field devices (Diagram 5) and having an excitation component (Column 5, lines 50)  
and a measurement component for the field devices (Column 5, lines 47-48) and having a connection unit for selective connection of the field-device terminals to the terminals of the excitation component or measurement component (Column 5, lines 35-53).

3. **INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 5, 12**

The features of claims 5, 12 correspond to those of claim 1 and thus the arguments for claim 1 likewise apply to claims 5 and 12.

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**4. DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-3, 6-7**

The additional features of claims 2-3, 6-7 are published in D1 (Column 5, lines 35 – Column 6, lines 32).

**5 DEPENDENT CLAIM 4**

The subject matter of claim 4 incidentally does not relate to an inventive activity in terms of article 33(3) PCT, so that the requirements of Article 33(1) PCT are not fulfilled.

The feature of claim 4 only concerns one of a number of obvious possibilities, from which the person skilled in the art would select, without inventive help, according to the circumstances, in order to solve the object posed.